

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 16, 2006 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 8, 13, 25, and 26 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 5 and 13 have been amended. Claims 9-12 and 14-26 have been canceled. New claims 27 – 30 have been added.

Support for the amendments is found in the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit therefore that the amendments do not add new matter.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-8, 13, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Gruetzner et al.¹, further in view of Parker et al.², among which claims 1, 5, 13, 25 and 26 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Gruetzner or Parker, alone or in combination.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 5,444,715

² U.S. Patent No. 5,513,188

Claim 1, as amended, includes the limitations of evaluating a test type signal and effecting an AC interconnection test if the test type signal is set, and effecting a DC interconnection test if the test type signal is not set.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither cited reference discloses or suggests such limitations. Given that all of the pending claims include the limitations discussed, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are, likewise patentable over the combination of Gruetzner and Parker.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.


If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

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